

OPINION 1939

Trigonocephalus pulcher Peters, 1862 (currently *Bothrops pulcher*, *Bothriechis pulcher* or *Bothriopsis pulchra*; Reptilia, Serpentes): defined by the holotype, and not a neotype; *Bothrops campbelli* Freire Lascano, 1991: specific name placed on the Official List

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Serpentes; snakes; pitvipers; VIPERIDAE; *Bothrops pulcher*; *Bothriechis pulcher*; *Bothriopsis pulchra*; *Bothrops campbelli*; *Bothriechis albocarinatus*; Colombia; Ecuador; Peru.

Ruling

- (1) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *pulcher* Peters, 1862, as published in the binomen *Trigonocephalus pulcher* and as defined by the female holotype (specimen no. ZMB 3868 in the Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany);
 - (b) *campbelli* Freire Lascano, 1991, as published in the binomen *Bothrops campbelli* and as defined by the male holotype (specimen no. INHMT 1956 in the herpetological collection of the Instituto Nacional de Higiene y Medicina Tropical 'Leopoldo Izquieta Pérez', Guayaquil, Ecuador).

History of Case 2921

An application for the conservation of usage of the specific names of *Trigonocephalus pulcher* Peters, 1862 and *Bothrops albocarinatus* Shreve, 1934 by the designation of a neotype for *T. pulcher* was received from Dr Beat Schätti (*Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland*) and Prof Hobart M. Smith (*University of Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*) on 14 December 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 54: 35–38 (March 1997). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

The application concerned two species of South American pitvipers: a terrestrial species from the Pacific slopes of the Andes from Colombia to Ecuador, and an arboreal species from the Amazonian basin of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. It stated that, following Boulenger (1896), the specific name of *Bothrops pulcher* (Peters, 1862) had been used for the western terrestrial species, and that the subspecific name of *Bothriechis oligolepis albocarinatus* (Shreve, 1934) was used for the Amazonian arboreal taxon.

In 1993 Schätti & Kramer found that Peters's (1862) Berlin holotype of *pulcher* was a specimen of *albocarinatus*. The name *pulcher* is thus a senior subjective synonym of *albocarinatus*. Schätti & Kramer (1993) used *albocarinatus* for the Amazonian arboreal species and proposed the new name *Porthidium almawebi* for the western terrestrial species. This last name has been used once (Golay, Smith, Broadley, Dixon, McCarthy, Rage, Schätti & Toriba, 1993) since its publication.

The application sought to set aside Peters's (1862) holotype of *pulcher* as the name-bearing specimen and to designate a neotype in accord with use of the name for the western terrestrial species. If approved by the Commission this action would

remove the name *pulcher* from the synonymy of *albo Karinatus*, so allowing the use of *pulcher* for the western terrestrial species and *albo Karinatus* for the Amazonian arboreal taxon.

Comments opposing the application from Dr Ulrich Kuch (*Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany*) and from Dr Ronald L. Gutberlet, Jr. & Dr Michael B. Harvey (*The University of Texas at Arlington, Texas, U.S.A.*) were published in BZN 54: 245–249 (December 1997) and BZN 55: 29–32 (March 1998) respectively. These authors proposed that the Commission should not set aside the provisions of the Code: the name *pulcher* would be used for the Amazonian arboreal species, and the first available synonym, *Bothrops campbelli* Freire Lascano, 1991, would be used for the western terrestrial species. They proposed to treat *Bothrops albo Karinatus* and *B. alticola* Parker, 1934 as junior synonyms of *B. pulcher*, and *Porthidium almawebi* as a junior synonym of *Bothrops campbelli*. A reply to these comments from Dr Schätti, one of the authors of the application, was published in BZN 55: 32–33. (*Note*: in line 2 of the third para. on p. 33, 'objective' should read 'subjective').

A further comment, from Dr Wolfgang Wüster (*University of Wales, Bangor, Wales, U.K.*) published in BZN 55: 34–36, was in partial agreement with the application. Dr Wüster proposed the use of *albo Karinatus* as the name for the Amazonian arboreal species, at the same time proposing the suppression of *pulcher* and the adoption of *campbelli* for the western terrestrial species.

A reply to all the published comments from Prof Hobart Smith, co-author of the application, was published in BZN 55: 36.

The courses favoured by both Schätti & Smith in their application (to set aside the holotype of *Bothrops pulcher* and to designate a neotype in accord with use of the name for the western terrestrial species, set out in BZN 54: 37) and by Wüster (to suppress the name *pulcher*, set out in BZN 55: 35–36) required Commission action. They were offered for voting as Proposals A and B respectively.

The course favoured by Kuch and Gutberlet & Harvey did not involve setting aside the provisions of the Code but use of the name *pulcher* for the Amazonian arboreal species and adoption of *campbelli* for the western terrestrial taxon, as set out in BZN 54: 248 and BZN 55: 31–32. This was Proposal C on the voting paper.

The application was offered for voting in two parts. In Vote (1) Commissioners were asked to vote for or against the use of the plenary powers to set aside the provisions of the Code, i.e. Proposals A or B rather than Proposal C. In vote (2) Commissioners were asked to indicate, in the event of a two-thirds majority in favour of setting aside the provisions of the Code in vote (1), a preference for Proposal A or Proposal B.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1998 the members of the Commission were invited to vote as set out above. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1999 the votes were as follows:

Vote 1. Affirmative votes — 11: Bock, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Mahnert, Minelli, Nye, Papp, Savage, Schuster, Štys, Song

Negative votes — 12: Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Nielsen and Patterson.

No votes were received from Cogger and Dupuis.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Since there was a majority against the use of the plenary powers to set aside the provisions of the Code, the specific name of *Trigonocephalus pulcher* Peters, 1862 is placed on the Official List defined by the female holotype; the name relates to the arboreal species of pitviper from the Amazonian basin of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The name *Bothrops campbelli* Freire Lascano, 1991, defined by the male holotype, is also placed on the Official List; it refers to the terrestrial pitviper species from the Pacific slopes of the Andes from Colombia and Ecuador.

The names *Bothrops albocarinatus* Shreve, 1934 and *B. alticolus* Parker, 1934 are junior subjective synonyms of *T. pulcher*; *Porthidium almawebi* Schätti & Kramer, 1993 is a junior subjective synonym of *Bothrops campbelli*.

The results of vote (2) are omitted as they are superfluous.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

campbelli, *Bothrops*, Freire Lascano, 1991, *Dos nuevas especies de Bothrops en el Ecuador (Serpientes venenosas)*, p. 2.

pulcher, *Trigonocephalus*, Peters, 1862, *Monatsberichte der Königlich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin*, 1862: 672, footnote.